not conducted any specific study with regard to migration of rural youth to urban areas.

(c) The Ministry of Rural Development through State Governments and Union Territory Administrations implements a number of Centrally Sponsored Schemes for poverty alleviation, employment generation, creation of rural infrastructure and providing basic amenities for people living in rural areas of the country. The major programmes are National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS), Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY), Swarnajayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY), Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY), Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP), Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC), Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) and National Programme for Comprehensive Land Resource Management (NPCLRM). All these programmes also help in checking migration from rural area to urban area.

Dismal Attendance at Indian Science Congress

758. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether media reports suggest that the Indian Science Congress held in New Delhi in January 2008 resembled a mela with dismal attendance and rehashed papers presented by experts;

(b) whether premier scientific institutions like Indian Institute of Science, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, various IITs were either not represented at all or had a mere token presence at the Congress; and

(c) whether out of 41 laboratories under the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, only 2 were represented with the Director General of CSIR not showing up?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) No, Sir. Indian Science Congress was held in January 2008 at Vishakapatnam. Five thousand outstation delegates and 1500 local students participated in the Congress. Eminent personalities like Nobel Laureates Dr. Roger Komberg, Dr. Robert Curl and Dr. Paul Nurse; and several icons of science like Dr. R. Chidambaram and Dr. M.S. Swaminathan and a host of experts from India and abroad spoke. Their presentations were inspiring and stimulating.

(b) No, Sir. The premier scientific institutions like Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, Indian Institutes of Technology at Kharagpur, Delhi, Guwahati, Mumbai, Kanpur and Roorkee and Tata Institute of Fundamental Research were represented in the Congress in a big way.

(c) No, Sir. The laboratories under Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) were represented by National Geophysical Research Institute, Hyderabad; National Institute of Oceanography, Goa; National Chemical Laboratory, Pune; Indian Institute of Chemical Biology; Central Food Technological Research Institute, Mysore; Emeritus Scientists of CSIR from different organizations also participated in the Congress. Director General of CSIR, however, could not participate for some unavoidable reasons.